

MODULAR OPTICAL SWITCH FABRIC

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a modular optical switch fabric that includes optical modules that are inserted into an optical chassis by way of plug-in electrical connectors. Each optical module includes a collimator panel and a beam steering panel secured to a frame member. The frame member is configured to position the collimator panel in fixed optical alignment relative to the beam steering panel. The modular optical switch fabric is upgradeable. The optical switch fabric allows users to expand the switch fabric capacity by simply adding switch fabric modules. The optical switch fabric also features modules that can be replaced and repaired without causing interruptions in service.